

WOODSMOKE

The Newsletter for Romsey District Scouting

Edition 463

<http://www.romsey-scouts.org.uk>

May 2008



APRIL FOOLS DAY 2008

But would Lord Palmerston have approved?

Lord Palmerston has become the newest member of Romsey District Scouts. But who was he? We all walk passed his rather imposing statue in the Town Square but what do we really know about him?

Henry John Temple, the 3rd Viscount Palmerston, was born at Broadlands On 20th October 1784. He came from a long line of the Irish branch of the Temple family. His

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Articles for the next edition to Liz Holloway by **15th May 2008** please.

18 Cherville Street, Romsey, SO51 8FD

Tel: 01794 514597 E Mail: liz@lizholloway.f2s.com

Further information on any aspect of Romsey Scouting from

District Chairman: John Stevens 023 8077 2973

District Commissioner: Darren Reed 023 8042 8244

great-grandfather, Henry Temple, had served as an MP and speaker of the Irish House of Commons. He had been created the 1st Viscount Palmerston and had bought Broadlands in 1736. His grandfather, also Henry, had died before his great-grandfather, so Broadlands and the title were inherited by his father, another Henry who also served as an MP. Young Henry John was educated at Harrow, Edinburgh and St John's College, Cambridge, before following his forebears into Parliament; he was elected as Liberal MP for Newport, Isle of Wight, in 1807.

During a distinguished parliamentary career, he served as Foreign Secretary, Home Secretary and Prime Minister. As Foreign Secretary he was nicknamed 'Lord Pumice Stone' for his sometimes abrasive foreign policy, and, amongst other achievements, was instrumental in the independence of Belgium. As Home Secretary, he was responsible for bringing into law an Act allowing the Courts to grant divorce for the first time. 'The Times' dubbed him 'Lord Cupid' when, ironically, he was cited as co-respondent in a divorce case years later, at the age of 79, under this very legislation.

A patriot and constitutionalist who enjoyed writing humorous poetry, his passion appealed to the people but he was often seen as slightly unpredictable or too driven by personal feelings by those around him in power. Nevertheless, he served as Prime Minister twice under Queen Victoria, becoming the oldest ever first time PM at 71 years. He proved a strong and able leader, often showing remarkable foresight; during the American Civil War, although he was anti-slavery, he was not necessarily anti-Confederate as he realised a United States would prove incredibly powerful and undoubtedly affect British manufacturing interests.

Still serving as Prime Minister, 'Lord Pam' caught a severe chill and died two days short of his 81st birthday whilst going through Diplomatic treaties. His last words were either "That's article 98, now go on to the next." or "Die my dear Doctor, that is the last thing I shall do!" – depending on which story you believe! His wish was to be buried in Romsey Abbey but the Cabinet insisted on a State funeral and burial in Westminster Abbey. This made him only the third (or fourth) 'non-Royal' to be granted

this honour – after Lord Nelson and Lord Wellington (and possibly poet Sir Philip Sydney) – and demonstrates the high regard in which he was held.

After his death, Romsey 'neighbour' and fellow Victorian celebrity Florence Nightingale said of him "When asked to do the right thing, he would always make a joke. But he would always do the right thing."

I think we can conclude that Lord Palmerston, although he died years before B-P wrote "Scouting for Boys", would definitely have approved of the Scout movement. He clearly believed in duty and responsibility, and served his own Queen honourably as her Prime Minister twice. But also, Lord Palmerston was clearly a man with a sense of humour so he would have appreciated the spirit of our April Fool. At about 6.30am on 1st April, just as we were putting that giant neckerchief on him, I am sure he winked!!

Read potted biographies of Lord Palmerston at:
www.number10.gov.uk or www.wikipedia.org

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19 Lansdowne Gardens
Romsey, Hants
6.4.2008

To the Editor 'Woodsmoke'

Dear Madam

The Romsey Advertiser of 29th February 2008 carried an article stating that the Joan Strainer Trust had offered matched funding for sums raised by the Scout Movement towards the cost of the new 1st Romsey Scout H.Q.

Since the above date, two 'Woodsmoke' magazines have been published with no mention of this generous offer.

How can the maximum benefit be derived from the matched funding if there is no effort to inform every leader, scout, cub, beaver, friend etc.....?

Yours

Brian Evans

"Woodsmoke' delivery boy, Romsey Town Centre.

There will be a response to this in the next edition—Editor

ROMSEY DISTRICT CENTENARY YEAR



CUB LEADERS REUNION

Have you ever been a Cub Scout leader?

Or involved with the Cub Section

Are you a current Cub Scout leader?

If so you are invited to a Reunion on September 6th. 2008

The venue will be decided nearer the time when we have an idea of numbers.

Do you keep in touch with other ex leaders;
please pass this invitation on to them.

Reply to me,

Jean Beauchamp. Shamba. East Grimstead. Salisbury SP5 3RY

Tel. 01722 712251 or e-mail jean.beauchamp@btinternet.com

RSVP BEFORE Aug 23rd

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NEW

Traditional Raft Building Activity Permits

It will soon be warmer (honest) and our thoughts will turn to water activities. You may be aware that scouting has recently introduced a permit scheme for traditional rafting on anything other than Class C waters.

Class C waters are defined as:

Non tidal Inland lakes, lochs or other stretches of placid water which are less than 100 metres wide throughout the region being used and where surface turbulence is limited to the regular waves produced by wind action. This also includes rivers or canals which again are less than 100 metres wide in the region that is being used.

Definition taken from "Class C Waters, Scoutbase Factsheet FS 120623

<http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/facts/pdfs/fs120623.pdf>

Please see the factsheet for full details and definition.

I believe this to be a good move to improve the safety of this activity, this has long been an anomaly, as a traditional raft built by scouts is in my view

probably more likely to break up in the water than any other craft. Indeed half the fun can be trying to sabotage the rafts of others

To qualify for a permit you have to be assessed by a County Assessor for this activity.

The good news is I am one of these. If you would like more details please see the factsheets on Scoutbase:

FS 1206668 Traditional rafting

<http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/facts/pdfs/fs120668.pdf>

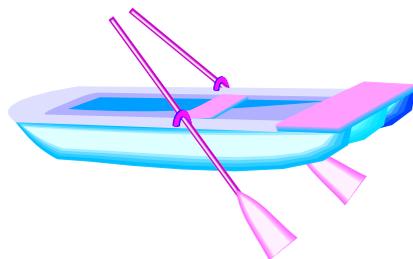
FS 120101 Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme - Applicants' Guide

<http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/facts/pdfs/fs120101.pdf>

Application for an Adventurous Activity permit

<http://www.scoutbase.org.uk/library/hqdocs/facts/docs/adactpermit.doc>

All the other normal scout water activity rules apply including the use of buoyancy aids etc.



In my view any traditional rafting in deep water should have one or more manoeuvrable safety craft in addition to the rafts. This could be a Canadian Canoe, kayak, rowing boat or powered craft. This safety boat would need to have a driver who is qualified to an appropriate level or has extensive experience with that

particular type of craft, it could be the permit holder.

In most cases the permit holder will need to be on the water, in a suitable craft.

If you need any help or advice on this, please do contact me on 01794 512418

E Mail: robin.taylor-milton@sparsholt.ac.uk

We would hope to get a number of people in the Romsey Scout District with Traditional Rafting permits to ensure this very educational and fun activity can continue.

Robin Taylor-Milton, District Explorer Scout Commissioner.



Sixteen Explorer Scouts and leaders headed off to the Brecon Beacons for the weekend at the end of March staying in Dulwich College Field Centre, a posh bunkhouse at the East end of the Black Mountain. The nicest thing about it was the showers were really good; they did not work in the one we used last year!

Saturday comprised of a day on the Black Mountain ridge in strong winds, and later sleet and hail, a taste of real mountaineering. Which reinforced all those things we tell them about the kit they need. Two groups dropped down early due to the horrendous conditions, the older group persevered and completed the 10 mile circuit, a real credit to them in these difficult conditions.



Sunday was filled with a half a day rock climbing on real rock indoors at the Llangorse Centre supervised for us by Mark Tarry (a blast from the past) and half a day caving with the Hampshire Scout Caving team at Llangattock near Crickhowell. My thanks to all the Explorer leaders who made this possible.

This is the second District Explorer Brecons trip and it went really well, my thanks to all the leaders involved.

We are looking forward to the Hampshire scout trip to the International Scout Centre at Kandersteg in August 2009 and

have 30 current and 'explorers to be' signed up.

Our last joint explorer meeting was a quiz organised by Lockerley Explorers which was attended and enjoyed by all the units.

We have commenced our Duke of Edinburgh Award training with a training weekend at Lockerley, and a series of practice hikes and expeditions are planned for the summer and Autumn.

Robin Taylor-Milton
DESC

Have you got yours yet?!
Romsey Centenary badge, that is!



We have had our Romsey Centenary logo (pictured) made into an attractive embroidered badge for young people to wear on their uniforms for the year but also as a souvenir to go on camp blankets or anywhere!

But it's not just the young people who can buy them – anyone is welcome to purchase this unique souvenir of Romsey's special anniversary for only £1!

Please contact our Badge Secretary, Mrs Barbara Knight, on 01794 513929 to order.

Stocks are limited so please don't wait to order yours!

District Diary Dates

May

Wed 7th	Mod 1 Training Drop In		4th H.O.
Tues 13th	Dist Explorer Leaders Mtg	7.30	15th H.O.
Thur 15th	District Exec	7.45	1st H.O.
W/e 23/26th	District Centenary Camp		Broadlands
Sun 25th	Beaver day visit to District Camp		

June

Sat 7th	County MDU in Romsey Town Centre		
Sun 8th	Musketeers AGM/skittles		
Tues 24th	Cub Silver Award Pres		R Town Hall
Sun 29th	County Cub Day Out		Paultons Park

July

Wed 2nd	Joint District Explorer Activity		Wellow
Fri 4th	District A.G.M.		URC Hall
Thur 10th	Training Drop In		1st H.O.

Romsey District Scouts' Centenary Camp



Plans for our camp at the end of May are moving on apace; we have around 400 young people booked to come along already!

Romsey District Centenary Camp

The Camp organisers would like to take this opportunity to thank and recognise some local firms who have kindly become 'official sponsors' of the event. In no particular order, we would like to express our thanks to the following organisations:

Claire Sutton DDC



Roke Manor Research Ltd
a Siemens company



The Rotary Club
of Romsey

